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BOOK NEWS

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Kerr-Ritchie's New Book Explores Emancipation in Comparative Perspective

LSU Press to publish Freedom's Seekers in April 2014

Baton Rouge—Jeffrey R. Kerr-Ritchie's *Freedom's Seekers* offers a bold and innovative intervention into the study of emancipation as a transnational phenomenon and serves as an important contribution to our understanding of the remaking of the nineteenth-century Atlantic Americas. Challenging national narratives of emancipatory exceptionalism (in America, in Britain, in Haiti), *Freedom's Seekers* encourages readers to approach emancipation studies with a fresh eye that looks beyond purely national frameworks.

Drawing on decades of research into slave and emancipation societies, Kerr-Ritchie is attentive to those who sought but were not granted freedom, and those who resisted enslavement individually as well as collectively on behalf of their communities. He explores the many roles that fugitive slaves, slave soldiers, and slave rebels played in their own societies. He likewise explicates the lives of individual freedmen, freedwomen, and freed children to show how the first free-born generation helped shape the terms and conditions of the post-slavery world.

Freedom's Seekers is a signal contribution to African Diaspora studies, especially in its rigorous respect for the agency of those who sought and then fought for their freedom, and its consistent attention to the transnational dimensions of emancipation.

Jeffrey R. Kerr-Ritchie, associate professor of history at Howard University, is the author of *Rites of August First: Emancipation Day in the Black Atlantic World* and *Freedpeople in the Tobacco South: Virginia, 1860–1900*.

April 2014

272 pages, 6 x 9, 2 maps

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Slavery Studies / African History and Diaspora

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